

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9429

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4965

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BITSIOS

1. LAST NIGHT, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TODAY FOR AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO BULGARIA WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, I HAD A BRIEF MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS, ALTHOUGH FEELING THE EFFECTS OF HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE OF TRAVEL ABROAD IN RECENT WEEKS. HE SAID THAT HIS DESK WAS PILED HIGH WITH AN ENORMOUS BACKLOG OF ROUTINE WORK THAT HE INTENDED TO TACKLE ON HIS RETURN FROM SOFIA THISWEEKEND. IN A BRIEF DISCUSSION WE HAD CONCERNING CYPRUS, HE SAID THAT NOTHING SEEMED TO BE MOVING BUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO PREPARE WELL FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS IN VIENNA. (HE DID NOT REFER TO THE INCIDENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS SURROUNDING THE EXPULSION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS FROM KARPASS.)

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE NEXT TIME I WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE SECRETARY I SHOULD CONVEY HIS BEST REGARDS AND TELL THE SECRETARY THAT BITSIOS CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE IN THE "SADAT CAMP" -- NAMELY, THAT HE BELIEVES THE SECRETARY'S CONTINUED PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WILL BE HIGHLY IMPORTANT IN TRYING TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS PROBLEMS.

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3. WE AGREED TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN NEXT WEEK FOR A

TOUR D'HORIZON.
KUBISCH

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